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TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Membership

Representative Jim Dunnam



Biographical Information

Jim Dunnam is a lifelong resident of McLennan County, Texas. At 39 years of age, Jim has been married to his wife, Michelle, for 16 years, and they have three children - Rachel (7), Mason (9), and Lauren (11). Jim is a product of Waco public schools, and he earned business and law degrees from Baylor University. Since 1987, Jim has practiced law in Waco at Dunnam & Dunnam. Jim was named the 2001 Baylor University Young Lawyer of the Year. Jim and his family are members of the First United Methodist Church of Waco.

Jim is a member of Baylor Lodge #1235, Waco Scottish Rite Bodies, Waco York Rite Bodies and the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce and serves as an ex-officio member of numerous local boards and organizations.

Among the many recognitions Jim has received for his work in the Legislature are the following:

- Named one of the 2003 "Ten Best Legislators" by *Capitol Report Online Magazine*
- Named one of the 2003 "Top Five in the House" by *GalleryWatch* (capitol news service)
- 2003 "Legislative Star" by the Texas Classroom Teachers Association
- Named one of the 2001 "Ten Best Legislators" by *Texas Monthly Magazine*
- Named one of the 2001 "Top Five in the House" by *GalleryWatch*
- Named "The 2001 Star of Texas" by Common Cause Texas
- Statewide 2001 Texas PTA Legislator of the Year

- 2001 "Heart of Honor" from the American Heart Association
- 2001 "Friend of Education" from the Texas Classroom Teachers Association
- 2002 "Champion for Children" by the Equity Center
- 2001 Legislative Leadership Award from the National Associations of Allstate, State Farm and United Farmers agents
- Special Recognition as a "Comer" in the 1999 *Texas Monthly* Best Legislators edition
- 1999 Golden Apple Award from Texas Mid-Size School Association
- 1999 "Excellence in Leadership Award" from the Texas Association of Rural Schools
- 1999 Texas PTA Legislative Guardian - District 12
- 1999 Honorary Life Member from the Texas Association of Community Schools
- 1999 Distinguished Service Award from the Vocational Agriculture Teacher Association
- 1999 Special Recognition from the Texas Rural Education Association.

Jim has written and passed laws including improving 911 service to rural areas, protecting local drinking water, ensuring smaller class sizes for elementary students, strengthening laws against drunk driving and cleaning up our troubled charter schools. Jim is one of only four House members on the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission, which is responsible for evaluating and streamlining state agencies. Jim has also served as the Speaker's appointment to the Texas Supreme Court Rules Advisory Committee, Vice-Chair of the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence, and member of the House Committees on Public Education and Redistricting. Jim has Chaired the Interim Committee on Charter Schools. Jim currently serves on the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee and the Committee on Juvenile Justice and Family Issues. Jim is also a member of the Legislative Study Group and the Mexican American Legislative Caucus. Jim is also the Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus.

Jim was elected to the Texas House of Representatives - District 57 in November of 1996. At that time District 57 included part of McLennan County. Since 2001, District 57 has been composed of part of McLennan County, and all of Falls, Leon, Madison, and Robertson Counties.